REMARKS

With this Amendment, claims 76 and 77 are cancelled. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-31, 33-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62, and 65-75 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

Claim Amendments and Cancellations

Claim 76 previously depended from claim 70. Claim 77 previously depended from claim 73. With this Amendment, claim 70 in amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 76, and claim 73 is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 77. Claims 76 and 77 are cancelled.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-31, 33-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62, and 65-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kano (U.S. Patent 5,359,513) in view of Branson (U.S. Patent 5,877,819).

As a preliminary issue, Applicants note that the Examiner fails to provide any specific rejection of claims 76 and 77, which were newly-added with the 1.111 Amendment of February 28, 2007. Therefore, Applicants submit that the limitations of claims 76-77, currently incorporated into claims 70 and 73, respectively, are allowable.

Additionally, the Examiner asserts that the newly-cited Branson reference teaches appending history data as header data. Branson is generally directed to a system and method for acquiring images during a medical procedure and using the acquired images. (Abstract). According to Branson, a personal computer receives images from one or more input devices and processes the images according to preferences of a user (e.g. a physician) and transmits the processed images to one or more output devices for display and/or storage. (col. 5, lines 40-50).

The personal preferences of the users are stored in a preference database with which the personal computer communicates. (col. 5, lines 49-55). The preference data comprises a set of scripts associated with a user or medical procedure. This information is used to capture images. The preference database is stored as a series of links. (col. 1, line 66 to col. 2, line 6). Various subsystems may be used with the personal computer. (col. 9, lines 5-15). A video subsystem having a function of performing "image manipulation operations such as zooming and panning" and/or performing "inter-image operations and manipulations" may be used. (col. 11, lines 42-43 and 61-62, col. 12, line 14). An image that has been "zoomed" may be saved, and then a tag is placed in the image file header to alert an output device to display the image as zoomed. (col. 14, lines 8-15).

There is no teaching or suggestion in Branson of how any inter-image operation or manipulation is performed and no teaching or suggestion of appending any information regarding any inter-image operation as header data.

The Examiner contends that the linked information corresponds to the header information. However, the header information of claims 70-75 includes appended history data to base image data. The history data is based on past image interoperations. The Examiner cites the link to preference database information as the header information. However, to the extent that the "link" can be considered appended header data, the disclosed link comprises scripts for data to be captured. (col. 2, line 5). Therefore, Branson fails to describe the header information as described by these claims.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants submit that independent claims 70-75 are patentable over the cited references and that claims , 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-31,

33-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62, and 65-69 are patentable at least by virtue of their

dependence. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered

and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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